

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 L-02 /058 W

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R 080704Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 846

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T MUSCAT 166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MU, UK, US

SUBJECT: MASIRAH

1. VISITING FCO MINISTER OF STATE ENNALS FLEW TO SALALAH FEB. 6 TO CALL ON SULTAN QABOOS. WAS ACCOMPANIED FROM MUSCAT BY OMANI FONMIN ZAWAWI, FRESH BACK FROM 7-WEEK ABSENCE ABROAD. DRAWING ME ASIDE AT HIS PARTY FOR ENNALS HERE SAME EVENING, ZAWAWI SAID THAT WHEN ENNALS HAD ASKED SULTAN IF AMERICAN REQUEST FOR OCCASIONAL USE OF MASIRAH AIRFIELD WOULD POSSIBLY GIVE HIM ANY PROBLEMS, SULTAN AT ONCE RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD CERTAINLY NOT RPT NOT. ZAWAWI COMMENTED TO ME THAT OMANGOV OF COURSE DOES NOT WISH REMOVE ITSELF FROM "ARAB MAINSTREAM" AND DOES NOT VIEW ITS ASSENT TO OUR USE OF MASIRAH AS RISKING THIS IN ANY WAY.

2. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH ME FEB. 5 AT BRIT AMBASSADOR'S MASSIVE FAREWELL RECEPTION, ENNALS COMMENTED POINTEDLY THAT HMG STILL HAS NOT RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON ANSWERS TO ITS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE WE CONTEMPLATE MAKING OF MASIRAH. AS ENNALS OBVIOUSLY WAS LABORING UNDER FALSE IMPRESSION THAT USG HAD DELIBERATELY MADE PUBLIC THROUGH PRESS RELEASE AT TIME OF SULTAN QABOOS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON ITS REQUEST FOR USE OF MASIRAH, I POINTED OUT THAT WE CONFIRMED THIS ONLY WEEK OR SO LATER AFTER NEWS HAD LEAKED AND PRESS CORPS HAD ZEROED IN ON SUBJECT.

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